

Year 5 English Assessment: The Winter Solstice Celebration

Learning objective: To demonstrate mastery of narrative structure, descriptive techniques, and inference skills within a festive context.

Read the passage carefully and answer all questions in full sentences. Pay attention to your use of ambitious vocabulary, punctuation, and sentence structure.

The village of Oakhaven was draped in a blanket of pristine, white snow. As twilight deepened, the frost on the windowpanes formed intricate, lace-like patterns. Inside the library, Pip the caterpillar was curled near the hearth, watching the embers glow with a soft, amber light. Max the monkey was busy calculating the number of handmade paper stars needed to decorate the town square, ensuring the perimeter was perfectly balanced. Outside, the air was crisp and carried the faint, melodious hum of carolling from the distance. The atmosphere was thick with anticipation; it was the eve of the Great Winter Gathering, a night where every creature brought a story to share by the fire.

Word bank: festive · glistening · anticipation · resplendent · tradition · nostalgic · twilight · melodious

1. Identify two adjectives used in the text to describe the setting. Explain how these words contribute to the winter atmosphere. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use the phrase 'draped in a blanket of pristine, white snow'? What does this suggest about the state of Oakhaven? (2 marks)

3. Based on the text, compare the activities of Pip and Max. How do their individual personalities influence their preparations for the gathering? (3 marks)

4. The text mentions that the gathering is a night where every creature shares a story. Justify why storytelling is a significant tradition in Oakhaven during the winter. (4 marks)

5. Find and copy a sentence that uses personification. Explain the effect this has on the reader. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if the weather suddenly turned into a blizzard before the Great Winter Gathering? Describe the potential impact on the villagers' plans. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) from the perspective of an owl looking down at the village. Include at least two examples of figurative language (e.g., similes or metaphors) to describe the scene below. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from the Great Winter Gathering featuring either Pip or Max, ensuring you include at least three detailed elements from the text to bring the environment to life.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the origins of the Winter Solstice. Write a persuasive argument (150 words) explaining why preserving community traditions is essential for future generations.